

Agent's Docket N. 34517/GM/mfc



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1732  
# 11602  
USSN 09/863,379

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Loris MASSAROTTO et al.

Ser. No.: 09/863,379

Filed: May 24, 2001

For: METHOD FOR THE CONTINUOUS ...

)  
) Group Art Unit: 1732  
) Examiner: still unknown  
)

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington D.C. 20231 USA

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR § 1.97**

Sir:

Applicant herewith encloses copies of the prior art references which have been cited in the European Search Report issued for the counterpart European Patent Application which contains subject matter equivalent to that of the present application. The references submitted herewith for consideration are listed on the attached form PTO-1449.

A copy of the European Search Report (in English) is herewith provided which indicates the degree of relevancy found by the European Patent Office of each reference, so as to comply with the requirements of 37 CFR § 1.98(a)(3), according to the Commissioner's Comment 68, 1135 Off. gaz. Pat. Office 13,20 (Feb. 4, 1992), and as set forth in MPEP 609 part A(3).

A copy of the Annex to the European Search Report is also enclosed, which indicates the patent family members of the patent documents cited in the Search Report.

In order to comply with the requirements of 37 CFR § 1.97(c) in the event that a first Office Action has been mailed before the present information disclosure statement (IDS) is filed, the undersigned herewith states in accordance with 37 CFR § 1.97(e)(1) that each item of information contained in the present IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the present IDS.

Respectfully submitted,

Guido MODIANO (Reg. No. 19,928)  
Agent for the Applicant

Date: October 4, 2001  
Address: Via Meravigli 16, 20123 MILAN-ITALY  
Telephone: (from USA) (011)(39)(02)8590-7777  
Telefax: (from USA) (011)(39)(02)863-860

encl.: -Form PTO-1449.  
-Copy of European Search Report.  
-Cited references.



Sheet 1 of 1

FORM PTO-1449  
(REV.7-80)U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICEATTY. DOCKET No.  
34517/GM/mfcAPPLICATION No.  
09/863,379**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

(use several sheets if necessary)

## APPLICANTS

Loris MASSAROTTO et al.

FILING DATE  
May 24, 2001GROUP ART UNIT  
1732**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

| *EXAMINER<br>INITIAL |    | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | NAME | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE<br>IF APPROPRIATE |
|----------------------|----|-----------------|------|------|-------|----------|-------------------------------|
|                      | AA |                 |      |      |       |          |                               |
|                      | AB |                 |      |      |       |          |                               |
|                      | AC |                 |      |      |       |          |                               |
|                      | AD |                 |      |      |       |          |                               |
|                      | AE |                 |      |      |       |          |                               |
|                      | AF |                 |      |      |       |          |                               |
|                      | AG |                 |      |      |       |          |                               |
|                      | AH |                 |      |      |       |          |                               |
|                      | AI |                 |      |      |       |          |                               |
|                      | AJ |                 |      |      |       |          |                               |
|                      | AK |                 |      |      |       |          |                               |

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**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

|  |    | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE    | COUNTRY | CLASS | SUBCLASS | TRANSLATION |    |
|--|----|-----------------|---------|---------|-------|----------|-------------|----|
|  |    |                 |         |         |       |          | YES         | NO |
|  | AL | 133 642         | 01-1979 | GERMANY |       |          |             |    |
|  | AM | 278 985         | 05-1990 | GERMANY |       |          |             |    |
|  | AN | 2 318 022       | 02-1977 | FRANCE  |       |          |             |    |
|  | AO |                 |         |         |       |          |             |    |
|  | AP |                 |         |         |       |          |             |    |

**OTHER PRIOR ART** (including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

|  |    |  |  |
|--|----|--|--|
|  | AR |  |  |
|  | AS |  |  |
|  | AT |  |  |

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

\* EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not criteria is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant(s).